

the Convention was concerned, into their original rights as freemen, fresh from the hands of their Creator, and unfettered by laws or constitutions, to make a bargain, a compact, a government, a constitution under which these freemen should agree to live together in harmony and fellowship, and to secure and protect the rights and interests of all; to guard from harm the weak; to protect the strong when the strong needed protection; to give equal justice and secure equal rights to all.

His friend from Baltimore city, (Mr. Prestman,) had kindly said that he, (Mr. M.,) was entitled to have weight, and would command it here and elsewhere. That gentleman was mistaken. He had little weight and desired to have but little weight here or elsewhere. The day had gone by when the idea of fame, power and glory could dance before his vision with any charms for him. The time was, [said he,] when, like other men, in the hey-day of my blood, I could be delighted and pleased, and could feed my fancy on such hopes. That day has passed. I desire—I look for nothing of the sort.

He had been anxious to enter upon the discussion, but knowing that the ears of a large majority of those to whom he addressed himself were sealed to any thing he could say, he would not obtrude himself upon them. Why should he do so when he was certain that nothing could be effected?

Do you not know, continued Mr. M., that that plan is determined against—is condemned unheard? Knowing that, why should I vote for it? I might make it appear before the eyes of those beyond the circumference of this hall, that it is wise—that it would be greatly beneficial in its results—that it would promote the happiness and welfare of the people. What should I accomplish? Nothing but a reputation for myself, which I value not, and on the other hand, the reproach of those who would vote against me. I would not do it—I would not attempt it. But I should not attempt to accomplish any good scheme, capable of being worked out. I should accomplish nothing but evil, if I carried my plan into execution. I cannot get the scheme accomplished, I cannot get even the minority to vote for it—for the gentlemen who claim to be the exclusive reformers, have gone for other measures. The gentlemen on the other side are adhering to their old hobby, and go for that, or something very near it. Who is in favor of this scheme? I, alone, and my friend from Baltimore city, [Mr. P.,] stands in the last ditch.—Now, sir, how hopeless, how foolish it would be for me to weary the Convention with an argument to show the scheme, which we all know was condemned. I cannot do it. I will not do it. Whatever may have been the patience attendant with which the Convention has heard me, I feel a deep weight of obligation resting upon me, for giving me their kind attention and notice. Certainly after having done so, I should not be reciprocating their kindness by boring them with a speech on this, or any other subject. The scheme is before you—it speaks for itself. It has not been hid under a bushel, as

my friend from Baltimore city suggested. It was laid before you early in the session. It was brought out early in December, in order that that gentleman and others might examine it—to see it in all its bearings. I supposed that they had done so. I cannot discuss it. I certainly cannot discuss it now. Perhaps hereafter I may participate in the discussion which should take place in the further progress of this debate. But now that the immolation of this measure is determined upon, I care not to say any thing further on the subject. I have no pride—I have as little interest, or feeling in the matter, as any man here, except what it merits in itself; and I would as soon vote for it, if it came from any other man. But, it stands in a peculiar position: being really a compromise measure, and until gentlemen on the extremes of both sides have the weight—the strength to cease warring against each other, and induce the gentleman from Baltimore city to surrender his views, there is no hope, and I shall leave the subject where it is.

MR. BROWN said :

He did not intend to say much in reply to the gentleman's remarks. A great deal had been said in the course of this debate about federal numbers and representation according to population, taking white as the basis. Now, he had been willing to take either as a general principle, and let it run all the way through.

What, he asked, was the general principle, as proposed to be adopted by gentlemen? Why, they lay down the ratio till it exhausts the population of the counties, and then they raise it three or four hundred per cent., and still they contend, all round that it is representation according to population. But he did not so understand it. A fixed principle of representation should be found lying at the bottom of a free government, and the only principle was that to which he had just alluded. It would be found to be the basis of every free government.

Another view of the matter : Gentlemen seemed very much alarmed about the slave population—why, each county got a Senator, and any bill passed by the House of Delegates touching that subject, or any other, was sent to the Senate, where it could be negatived, if that body saw proper. Where, then, he would inquire, was there cause for alarm? There was none. He was apprehensive that there would not be any basis presented here—any thing that looked to the adoption of a general principle. His sincere belief was, that there was but one principle, and that was—representation according to population; but he feared that could not be obtained, as a majority would not be found voting for it, and therefore he was for compromise.

Mr. B. said he could but express his surprise when he heard gentleman from the small counties complain, that those from the large counties were unwilling to offer a liberal compromise. Now what is the compromise tendered. Each county and the city of Baltimore to have one Senator. This is what he, (Mr. Brown,) called the Lion's share. It gave to the small counties complete control of the Senate, and surely that